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THE FOE BEHIND THE FIGHTING LINE

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.] *Societies and Branches in the Union* 561. [NON-PARTY.

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Notes and News.

Bulgaria and Tsar Ferdinand.

It is quite clear at last what the intentions of Ferdinand of Bulgaria have been during the past months of haggling to gain time. The views of Bulgarians are by no means as clear. Every Bulgarian knows the story of the "Tsar Liberator," Alexander of Russia, whose bronze statue dominates the square before their Parliament House, and whose memory is enshrined in every Bulgarian heart. Every Bulgarian knows, too, that through the bitter winter of 1913-1914, Russian aid provided him with munitions and food, and even the warm greatcoats without which hundreds of men in their armies would have perished from cold. Their hearts are with Russia and with England; they are ruled by an Austro-Hungarian intriguer, who owes his reputation for ability and astuteness very largely to the paragraph-writers of the foreign press. Circumstances have assisted him to form a high opinion of himself.

Stambouloff's View.

Ferdinand of Saxe Coburg and Gotha was to all intents and purposes a Hungarian noble, possessed of large landed estates, but of no political importance, when the great Bulgarian leader, the rough Stambouloff "picked him out of a café at Vienna," and "thought he might do if he knocked him into shape." The mysterious murder of Stambouloff deprived Prince Ferdinand of the training indicated, which would certainly have aimed at making of him a Bulgarian statesman. That he never became. Personal ambitions, and still more, personal fears, determined his policy. The strange tale of an Imperial crown of emeralds, lying in a Paris jeweller's safe, though probably untrue, is significant. If Tsar Ferdinand did not dream of being Emperor of the East, his ambitions have been, not for Bulgaria, but for himself. Once already he has sacrificed his people to great schemes of aggrandisement, which made no appeal to them; now, a second time, he has pursued his own ends, regardless of their deepest national instincts.

Women as Taxi-cab Drivers.

In answer to a question put by Mr. Agg Gardner, the Home Secretary (Sir John Simon) replied that a few applications from women had been received, but that there was no shortage of male trained drivers. "Some months ago the secretaries of the National and Provincial Union of Vehicle Workers, who were requested by the War Office to secure the enlistment of as many public-carriage drivers as possible for transport work at the front, informed the Commissioner of Police that they could not carry out their task satisfactorily unless they were authorised by him to inform the drivers that there would, as far as possible, be no alteration in licensing conditions during the absence of the men at the front, so that on return they might not find themselves displaced. The Commissioner informed the men that as far as he was concerned they would give the men this assurance." It seems strange, if it is true, that these men will only enlist on condition that women are forbidden to do their work while they are away. We cannot but feel that the action of the National and Provincial Union of Vehicle Workers was prompted more by the desire to keep women out of their own trade than by any zeal for recruiting. The dog-in-the-manger attitude is particularly hard to tolerate in the case of this trade, since there can be no possibility of women undercutting the men, and by the conditions of the work the women drivers would necessarily compete on equal, if not on disadvantageous, terms.

The Cost of Milk and Meat.

The rise in the price of milk is due to a variety of causes, among them the shortage of labour, the higher cost of foodstuffs, and the rise in wages. The first difficulty is being met in some places by restricting the supply to one delivery in the day since the cool weather began. But the demand for milk is greater than ever because of the large quantities of condensed milk and cheese required for the Army and Navy, and the supply is short. The very high prices given for meat have led to the premature slaughter of cattle and consequent reduction of the milk supply. As we cannot have both meat and milk in abundance, we must make up our minds to adhere rigidly to the rule of "meat only once a day."

Wages and Hours of Women Munition Workers.

In the Manchester area, where a large number of women are already employed in the manufacture of munitions of war, and many more are about to be engaged, efforts are being made by the local Women's Interest Cominittee to improve the conditions under which they are working. According to a statement made by Mrs. Annot Robinson to a representative of *The Manchester Guardian*, there is an extraordinary difference in the wages that are being paid, some employers giving a minimum of £1 for a week of forty-eight hours, and others as little as 12s. for fifty-one hours. While investigation shows that women in Manchester are not working as long as the seventy-two hours a week worked by women in some other districts, they have duties of 11½ hours' duration. A deputation has, however, made representations on the subject to Dr. Addison and Mr. Beveridge, of the Ministry of Munitions, pointing out that there is danger of this new industry for women becoming one of the sweated industries, the rate of pay being less than in the staple industries of Lancashire, and some of the women being paid less even than the 3½d. an hour fixed as the minimum by the Trades Boards Act. Dr. Addison, in reply, assured the deputation that the Ministry of Munitions were alive to the conditions of things in the North of England, and would take action towards ensuring that the rate of pay established in the munition works did not tend to lower the standard of pay for women.

Dangers of Overstrain and Insufficient Food.

Another deputation, which included Councillor Margaret Ashton, Mrs. Dickinson, and Mrs. Annot Robinson, was sympathetically received by the Manchester officials of the Ministry of Munitions, and assured that their representations with regard to wages, canteens, and the limitation of working hours for women to eight at a time should be forwarded to the authorities in London. It is to be hoped that the officials there will not be too busy to give proper attention to these representations, for the dangers of overstrain are very serious, especially when combined with insufficient nourishment.

Discussing the character of the work allotted to women in munition works, Mrs. Robinson said that some girls had to handle rough-cast shells weighing 23lb. each, and that one girl had to deal each minute with a shell weighing 18lb. "It is exceedingly heavy work," Mrs. Robinson said. "I don't think people realise what an exhausting job it is, and unless the girls are properly fed it may have extremely evil effects."

Reports of the splendid work being done by women in factories where conditions are good, and of their unexpected ability to resist fatigue, show that, from the economic as well as from the human point of view, good food and proper provision for rest for the worker are of the utmost importance. In order to press for this provision, the Manchester, Salford, and Leicester Women's Interests Committee is now striving to secure adequate representation of women on the local committees which are expected to be organised in connectioin with the Board of Labour appointed in London to deal with the problem of unskilled labour, and which consists of an equal number of representatives of labour, employers, and the Ministry of Munitions.

Women Must Help on the Land.

In the course of an appeal to agriculturists to get all they could out of the land, using every shift they could for labour, Lord Selborne declared that women must make good the rapidly-growing shortage of labour. He had recently, he said, seen in Surrey what he believed nobody had ever seen in England before—he had seen a woman ploughing. Having seen this he took his courage in both hands. It was no good saying that women could not plough, because there were many women in Europe to-day doing this work. Women of every class must help; the squire's wife, and the farmer's and the parson's wife, the wife and the daughter of the labourer, each in turn could make a contribution to agriculture in this year of war, and so work for victory, just as husband, son, or brother, in the Fleet or in the trenches. "I would make," he continued, "a special appeal to the wives and daughters of men who are fighting, because they are well cared for by the nation. They have not been left, as are the German women, in grinding poverty, whilst the men are fighting the battles. It was not right that a woman in this country should live in greater luxury than she did before her husband or son went away to fight; she should do her part just as the men. She must go on to the land if the farmer asked her, at a fair wage for a fair day's work."

Doing the Impossible.

A failure in any part of the population would, Lord Selborne declared, bring the nation into great peril. "This was not a time for enjoyment, for indulgence in our ordinary habits; it was not a moment at which we could say, 'I have never worked on the land, and I am not going to work on it,' or to say, 'I am a trade unionist and I have the right to strike.' Or to say, 'I am a farmer, and I have nothing to learn.' It was a moment when each man and woman of every class must put forward that unselfishness and patriotism on which depended the fate of England.

"You say," he added, "that it is no good going to the women and asking them to work upon the land. Well, I do not believe it. Lord Kitchener told me the other day that there was nothing he had done in making his new armies which a dozen people of the first authority had not told him was impossible. Well, I ask you to do the impossible."

Progress of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

Last Sunday was the anniversary of the inauguration of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital, the scheme for the Hospital having been adopted on October 3rd of last year. Since then the work has made rapid strides. Almost every Society in the N.U. has contributed something to hospitals, and the interest has become world-wide. We have collected £60,000, and the Committee is responsible for 1,300 beds. Our weekly expenditure is at least £1,000 a week, and the sum of £100,000 is needed to carry on the work efficiently.

Overstrain in Munition Work.

While a certain proportion of munition workers are, no doubt, guilty of slacking, a large number are not producing the maximum output of which they are capable because their strength is being over-taxed. Not only does the excessive strain of long hours and "speeding-up" represent a considerable economic loss, but it also involves serious damage to the health of the industrial classes at a time when it is more than ever important to build up the vitality of the nation, in view of the number of men who must inevitably be maimed and invalided in the war.

Writing in *The Englishwoman*, on a munition-workers' canteen, with which she was helping, Miss Ellen Walshe tells of how "early in the year when first the Government showed signs of waking up to the need for greater efforts, the men were told of the great need for a certain number of rifles to enable a certain division to leave for the front. They responded by *doubling their output for a week.* How they did it no one knows, not even the officials at the factory; but there were many sick men afterwards, and on one night seventy-six accidents were treated at the ambulance-station. Flesh and blood cannot stand such pressure for long."

The loss resulting from overstrain is emphasised in the report on the question of fatigue, from the economic standpoint, drawn up by a Committee of the British Association and discussed at their meeting last month. Results tabulated in this report show that after the second hour of work there is a continuous and marked decrease in the output, and a corresponding increase in the frequency of accidents. One of the examples given is of the work done by operatives engaged in soldering tins in three factories. For the morning spell the average figures are: First hour, 114 tins; second hour, 167; third hour, 159; fourth hour, 157; fifth hour, 138. For the afternoon spell: First hour, 119; second hour, 165; third hour, 163; fourth hour, 155. All the tables agree in giving a higher output for the second hour than for the first, this result being attributed to the facility which comes from practice.

In introducing the Report, Professor Muirhead stated that most members of the Committee were convinced that better results could be obtained by breaking up the spells of work by periods of rest, and the need for organising labour in munition factories so as to secure proper rest and recreation for the workers was also maintained by Professor Kirkaldy and Mr. Sargant Florence, the latter pointing out that a much larger production might be obtained in the long run by a modification of hours and conditions. Professor Moore urged the necessity for putting more people on the work. What was wanted was to keep the machinery running for the whole twenty-four hours by employing relays of fresh workers.

Referring to the largely increased number of women now employed, Miss A. M. Anderson said that the inspectors had been impressed by the power of fatigue-resistance which they displayed. She thought this emphasised the importance of the psychological element, because it seemed clear that the women were inspired and sustained by an impulse to help the nation. Appreciation of the way in which women are working was also shown by Dr. T. M. Legge, Medical Inspector of Factories.

The necessity for regular rest periods, on which so much stress is laid in the British Associations' Report, is also emphasised in an Interim Report on an investigation into industrial fatigue, undertaken for the Home Office by Dr. A. F. Stanley Kent. Evidence as to the cumulative effects of fatigue are afforded by some of his experiments, the workers being found to be more readily fatigued towards the end of the week than at the beginning. "Such a result," states Dr. Kent, "might be brought about as a result of the nightly rest proving insufficient to sweep away the day's stock of fatigue, the worker starting next morning with a small debit balance, to be increased on successive mornings, until the end of the week was reached," the week's accumulation being, as a rule, "swept away by the week-end rest."

This is scarcely a new discovery! Many of us are familiar with this "small debit balance," gradually increasing as the week goes on; but if the week-end rest does not succeed in "sweeping it away," there comes a time when flesh and blood can stand no more.

After the War.

Women's Share in the Work of Reconstruction.

In connection with the Annual Conference of the National Union of Women Workers, held this week in the Central Hall, Westminster, a meeting for girls took place on Monday afternoon, at which Mrs. Creighton, President of the Union, took the chair.

The future, she said, would have a new seriousness for women. We were not going back to the world we knew before the war. A great opportunity lay before the girls of the present generation; there was a new demand for women's services, and there would be a still greater demand in the future.

"You must," she said, "win greater freedom and a greater liberty for work than women have had in the past. Many of you must be prepared to do work you have never done before, and to work well and sensibly with men. When you go to do your work, don't think of being women or girls, or whether men are looking at you or paying attention to you. Some girls never seem to be able to forget their sex. I want you to learn how to forget and also how to remember that you are women. You must not try to win the attention of men by silly ways; you must win their respect by showing how keen you are about your work, and how anxious to do it well. The girls of the present hold the future of the Empire in their hands."

Mrs. H. B. Irving said that she had asked a wise man from the front to give her a message for the girls of England, and he had said that what the men wanted to be assured of was that the women were behind all that they were doing, and all that they stood for. Women must uphold the strength of their men. The care and upbringing of the rising generation would rest with them, and in this every woman could take a part, if not as a mother then as a teacher, or social worker, or in some other capacity. Beyond all it was necessary to keep a serene mind, and cultivate the power of sympathy and sacrifice. Men would want rest and quiet, and shelter when they came back. The words of her wise man from the front reminded her of the words of an ancient wise man, "A hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land."

Professor Gilbert Murray, speaking on "What will be expected of women after the war," said that the demand for what was called women's rights was essentially a demand for freedom for the sake of service. One could wish that great movement could have had time to complete itself before the great crash came which suspended it. There was no data for telling how the war and its after-effects would tell upon the women's cause; but one thing was clear, that the cause of public service had gained enormously. The idle, wasteful, trivial, or selfish life was always contemptible, but whereas formerly we mostly took it very lightly, now we did not, realising that it was based upon profound disloyalty to the society we lived in.

Thousands of young men who were not soldiers by profession, and who hated war, were laying down their lives. They had risen quite definitely and calmly to the call of duty to die for their friends and the society of which they formed a part, and it seemed to him that this had quite changed the quality of ordinary life and made it somehow heroic. Were the people at home rising to this? Men were fighting in some sense for the British ideal of life and civilisation. "The life of England," said Professor Murray, "is for the time being in our hands—in the hands of us older men and of you women. We must keep this life up, so that it is something worth fighting for; otherwise people will be dying for something quite unworthy."

"A pretty severe task," he continued, "lies before you. . . . Your natural mates will be largely cut off; there will be loneliness in many lives in the future where there ought to be comradeship. The generation which comes after you will be, to a large extent, a fatherless generation. The women will have to be fathers and mothers both."

He advised girls not to think only of the war and not to let all their former interests fail, but to go on studying and working, and see that they had a life of their own. There was a great need in everyday life of good temper and common sense, and the war had put a great strain on both The women of the great war must be a race of strong women, with courage and common sense and a trained mind.

There had been a great rush towards immediate service, such as nursing; but other work would be needed later, when the war was over and the men came back, tired and worn. They would want a strong, calm life, and would be quite unable to make it for themselves. Women must be prepared to build up a life that would bring the peace and calm that was wanted.

An interesting account was given by Miss Thurstan of her work in Belgium and Russia; and later in the afternoon Mrs. Arnold Glover and the Hon. Lily Montagu spoke on the subject of girls' clubs.

Women and War Work.

At Tuesday's meetings the annual report of the Society was discussed, and various resolutions were passed, including one to the effect that where, on account of the war, women are employed to take the place of men, rates of payment should be the same as those of men. Miss Clementina Black maintained that when women were coming forward as the reserves of labour, and, despite their lack of training in many callings, were proving much more capable than could have been reasonably expected, it would be little less than a national calamity if their readiness to work were exploited as a means of reducing the wages of labour. Mrs. Bernard Drake said that Mr. Lloyd George had promised that women engaged in making war munitions, or doing the same work as men, should be paid at the same piece-work rate as men. The fact was, however, that women were not employed at piece rates, but at time rates, or else the process was so readjusted that, although women were doing the same work as men, no one woman was engaged on the same process as any one man. Miss Margaret Ashton advocated a definite minimum time wage of £1 per week. An effort was being made in Manchester to get the local munitions tribunal to fix a minimum rate.

Women Police.

A resolution was also passed urging the Government to take steps to promote the employment of women for police duties, with powers and salaries equal to the male constable. Mrs. George Morgan said that an extraordinary amount of good work had been achieved by the women patrols, and the movement had proved that the old fear that women-police might experience rudeness or violence in the pursuit of their duties had been swept away. Moreover, it had been shown that the police did not resent, but welcomed, the co-operation of women workers in carrying out their duties.

By a large majority a resolution was passed in favour of legislation to provide for State registration of nurses. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, in moving it, said that for a quarter of a century nurses had been pleading for professional enfranchisement. The conditions under which British nurses worked were unjust, both educationally and economically.

Women's Work in Australia.

We have received the following account of women's work in Australia from Mrs. Spencer, of Victoria:—

Since last I wrote to you there are various items of interest to record. In consequence of an agitation, promoted by a few women, and supported vigorously by *The Melbourne Age* and various members of the Federal Parliament, the pay of the Australian Army nurses on active service has been substantially increased. Staff nurses now receive £127 a year, instead of £60, and the pay of sisters and matrons has also been increased. The allowance for outfits has been raised from £15 to £21, with £16 a year for upkeep, and a fairly good scale of pensions has been fixed in case of disablement or of death (where a nurse leaves dependents). These changes have met with approval from all sections of the public.

Five women have been appointed Justices of the Peace in Western Australia, to sit in the Children's Court in Perth. Four women have been appointed Justices of the Peace in South Australia; they are acting both in the Children's Court and in the ordinary police-courts in Adelaide.

In August last a deputation waited on the Chief Secretary and Attorney-General of Victoria on the subject of protecting children from criminal assaults. This is a matter on which my husband and myself have been working for the last fifteen months. The first practical outcome is that the Chief Secretary announced yesterday that he intended to appoint two police-women, and will call for applications immediately. Their chief duties will be to patrol public places and to take depositions in sexual cases in which children or women are concerned. The

Chief Secretary declared that he was much impressed during a visit he has just paid to Sydney by the excellent work done by the two policewomen lately appointed by the New South Wales Government. The Sydney policewomen are both experienced women. One was a hospital nurse, the other has done some social work in London, and holds the certificate of sanitary inspector of the L.C.C. Their status is in every way the same as that of the male constable, and they receive the same pay.

The New South Wales Government has undertaken an enterprise which has already proved of great benefit to housewives. Owing to the existence of a fish ring, fish has always been an expensive luxury in Sydney. Every week the ring destroyed tons of fish rather than lower its prices. Both Government, fishermen, and housewives were powerless to control it. So the Government bought two trawlers, and is having more built in N.S.W., and has started deep-sea fishery off the coasts, the fish thus obtained being sold at the lowest price which will bring in a profit to the N.S.W. Government.

The same state of affairs has prevailed in Melbourne; but our Chief Secretary seems determined to get the better of the fish ring here. He has announced that the N.S.W. Government has promised to lend us a trawler till we can have one built, and he intends to follow out the same methods that have proved so successful in Sydney.

Some three months ago a Housewives' Co-operative Association was formed in Melbourne to enable consumers to buy direct from producers and in other ways to reduce the cost of living. I am a member of the Executive Committee, and believe that it will develop into something very big.

As a former member of the Burnley branch of the N.U.W.S.S. may I congratulate the National Union on having endorsed Mrs. Fawcett's attitude? It is cheering to read in The Common Cause of the magnificent things Englishwomen are doing. It makes us feel envious here at times.

"THE ENGLISHWOMAN."

The Englishwoman, in the October number, emphasises the need for setting on one side the industrial disputes which occupied us before the war, and throwing ourselves whole-heartedly into the work of producing munitions. "The Germans," says the writer, "will not wait until we have settled these industrial problems; if we procrastinate in the production of munitions there is no Socialist of them all who will follow our example. If we wait until every individual trade unionist is satisfied as to the adequacy of the Government guarantee that he shall not suffer from the relaxation of union rules and customs; until he has safeguarded himself against being undercut or superseded by cheap female labour; until women have proved to themselves that they will not be sweated in the new occupations where they are so much needed; until they see some chance of maintaining their positions after the war—we shall have to reckon with the reproaches of soldiers short of clothes, equipment, and munitions, of mothers paying needlessly high prices for necessaries which women's labour should produce more cheaply. We must, in fact, women and trade unionists alike, trust the other sex and other classes to do us justice when life is once more normal. The war ought to have taught us that most people are more to be trusted than we imagined in the rather pessimistic days of the early twentieth century. It would be a tragic comedy if the nation which is fighting for the inviolability of agreements should do less than its best because its own citizens could not trust each other."

Among the other interesting articles are "Women and the Civil Service" by L. Keyser Yates, "Women Workers and the War" by a Civil Engineer, "A Munition Makers' Canteen" by Ellen Walshe, "The War and Literature" by St. John G. Ervine, and "The Effect of War on the Public Schools" by S. P. B. Mais.

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

A Woman's Diary of the War. By S. Macnaughtan. (Nelson. 1s. net.)
War Distress and War Help. A Short Catalogue of the leading War Help Societies. By Helen Donald Smith. (Murray. 6d. net.)
Hints to V.A.D. Members in Hospitals. By E. C. Barton. (*Nursing Times*. 6d. net.)
The Roll-Call of Serving Women. By Mary Frances Billington. (Religious Tract Society. 3s. 6d.)
Maternity. Letters from Working Women. Collected by the Women's Co-operative Guild, with a Preface by the Rt. Hon. Herbert Samuel, M.P. (Bell. 2s. 6d. net.)
The Girls' School Year Book. (Year Book Press. 3s. 6d. net.)
A Short History of Russia. By Cazalet. (Clarendon Press, Oxford. 2s.)
The House Fly. A Slayer of Men. By F. W. Fitzsimons, F.Z.S., F.R.N.S. (Longmans, Green & Co.)
The Stones of Sacrifice. By Mona Caird. (Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton & Kent. 6s.)
In Hoc Vince. The Story of a Red Cross Flag. By Florence L. Barclay. (Putnam.)
The Jester. By Leslie Moore. (Putnam. 6s.)
The Freelands. By John Galsworthy. (Heinemann. 6s.)
The Evidence in the Case. By James Beck. (Putnam. 1s. net.)
America Fallen. By J. Bernard Walker. (Putnam. 1s. net.)

Correspondence.

NATIONAL ECONOMY AND ALCOHOL.

Madam,—In your issue of September 3rd, 1915, I notice two articles on the vital question of national economy, but barely a passing word of mention of the most important and easiest economy of all—namely, abstinence from alcohol. If people would but give up drinking even one-half of their usual dose of this paralysing drug, the nation would directly gain by saving £80,000,000 in cash, a sum infinitely greater than any other economy referred to in the articles mentioned.

But no! we are governed by the anti-Suffragist Drink Trade, and the fiat has gone forth that the House of Commons is not to follow the example of His Majesty the King, and London, the centre of the Empire, has been till now the focus of the degradation of our men and women by alcohol. Surely every unit of our Press which is actuated by high ideals and earnest endeavour to help the Empire at this crisis should draw attention to the direst enemy we have at home, and one which Mr. Lloyd George truly described as more destructive "than all the German submarines put together."

The renunciation of alcohol is, in fact, at this moment the test question of national loyalty in service and of national economics. While on the one hand no one denies that alcohol involves a national loss of fully £300,000,000 a year; causes directly the deaths of not less than 50,000 of our citizens, and injures the health of many thousands more, annually; and while everyone admits that it is the greatest factor in national inefficiency, and especially in restriction of the output of munitions; on the other hand, the large majority of our people go on taking it for self-indulgence, and for that only. To play its part in reducing "distress caused by the war," therefore, The Common Cause must range itself alongside the fighters against alcohol.

Victor Horsley.

Alexandria, September 20th, 1915.

WOMEN AND HEALTH AUTHORITIES.

Madam,—As there will this year be no elections to Town Councils and Metropolitan Borough Councils on November 1st, most of the Councils now re-assembling after the summer holidays will shortly be filling casual vacancies, as provided by the National Registration and Elections Act. May we through your paper recall to the public mind the fact that legislation last year greatly widened the field of selection of men and women for service on Town and County Councils, by admitting non-electors with a "residential qualification" of twelve months' residence within the electoral area? This long-desired reform (familiar in relation to other local government bodies) renders practically available the services of married women, and of other women living at home with relations, as completely as such services are available for the administration of the Poor Law.

We would beg attention to the great advantage that it would be to the nation to secure the co-operation on every Public Health Authority of two or more women of judgment and experience. Every year brings new enactments that strengthen the argument—*e.g.*, Health Authorities have now been empowered to establish Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres, and for these it is certain that the supervision of women is required. There are men who in the past have urged the peculiar appropriateness of co-option as a method for placing on public bodies the most wisely selected women. Others have thought differently, but in this year all must desire that the method in question shall be widely utilised for the purpose. That rests with the members of the Councils, since they alone can nominate and they alone elect. But the representatives of a ward in which a vacancy occurs are accessible, and so are their fellow Councillors. One or more may be glad to have suggested to them the nomination of some suitable woman whose election would reflect credit on the Council.

Annie Leigh Browne,
Hon. Sec., Women's Local Government Society.

NATIONAL REGISTRATION WORK AT OXFORD.

Madam,—The writer of the report headed "The National Registration at Oxford" omits to mention the very important piece of organisation that was entrusted by the City Council to Miss Penrose, Principal of Somerville College. She undertook the whole business of organising the distribution and collection of the forms, provided a central office in that part of Oriel College which is now occupied by Somerville College, and directed a staff of helpers, both men and women. The work was so well done that the Registrar-General sent special congratulations to the City and to Miss Penrose in particular. Educated women have often reason to be dissatised with the very inferior part assigned to them in public work, and feel the difficulty of obtaining scope for their powers of organisation, but in this case an opportunity such as is rarely granted to a woman was offered and accepted, and the offer was fully justified. Suffragists are sometimes inclined to be indifferent to Local Government work, but it is, especially at the present time, of the highest importance, and I venture to think that if competent women were to devote themselves to its problems they would gain in political experience and insight.

Oxford Suffragist.

WOMEN AS MOTOR-CAB DRIVERS.

Madam,—In last week's Common Cause the opinion is expressed in "Notes and News" that "so many women are driving delivery vans and motor-cars on the streets of London that it is more than ever ridiculous that they should not be allowed to drive cars for hire." I venture to dissent, and to point out three objections—not applicable to any other section of vehicular traffic—which I think would-be candidates for a motor-cab driver's license have failed to take into consideration; but either one of which justifies the refusal of the Metropolitan Police to grant this license to women.

First:—Van drivers are sufficiently their own mistresses as regards time to be able to combine honesty towards their employers with steady driving in heavy traffic; but the motor-cab driver is the servant of a public impatient to be conveyed rapidly to its goal, and it is to his own interest to get in as many jobs as possible during the day, so that he is

led to chance, and sometimes to encounter, accidents that no woman should be forced to risk, or if she be duly mindful of her responsibility for the safety of her passengers, would permit herself to risk.

Secondly:—Van drivers are not required to wait for hire on a public rank in association with male drivers, and in all winds and weathers. Separate shelters on all cab ranks would be imperative before women could begin to use their licenses, and even if these were forthcoming, it must be remembered that the "first" and the "next" turn have always to be in readiness to instantly obey a call.

Thirdly:—Van drivers have for load an assortment of harmless bales and parcels; but the motor-cab driver is liable to be hailed by all kinds of disreputable and immoral people, and he is not at liberty to refuse fares because he suspects that by accepting them he will become an accessory to some deed of shame. Surely, no woman who realises this aspect of a cab-driver's work would regard the motor-cab as a "suitable occupation," nor would she be blind to the possibility of such an occupation exposing her to the danger of being trapped into moral or physical peril. There are many minor objections also to women cab drivers plying for hire on City streets; but the greater includes the less, so I need not enter into these.

EMILY VAUGHAN JENKINS.

FIVE SHILLINGS' WORTH OF WAR LOAN.

MADAM,—I find that women of the working-classes are often quite at a loss about the War Loan. They know from the placards that they can invest 5s.; but they do not know that they can buy the vouchers at any post-office, nor what to do with the vouchers. A charwoman said to me this morning: "I can't put any money into the War Loan, because you see, ma'am, I can't keep up the payments!" As soon as it was explained to her that she was not obliged to undertake to pay 5s. *every month*, her face brightened. "I can easy save 5s.," she said, "now I've got work"; and added, "unless ladies, that know, explain these things, we never know about them." Will not ladies "explain these things" wherever they get the opportunity? A little talk and advice is not thrown away.

DAILY WORKER.

CO-OPERATION IN PRACTICAL WORK BETWEEN BOYS AND GIRLS AT SCHOOL.

MADAM,—The schools of the State of Massachusetts, including the suburbs of Boston, but not the city, are practically all open to both boys and girls.

"Boys and girls may co-operate in practical arts work, boys preparing various articles used by the girls in cooking and sewing, while girls make appliances used by the boys in manual training."—*Annual Report State Board of Education*, 1914, *p.* 90.

As an article on Co-education and National Service appeared in your issue of September 10th, it might be of interest to your readers to know whether any system of practical co-operation between the sexes at schools open to boys and girls in the United Kingdom exists, and how it is carried out. Possibly some competent person would supply the desired information.

J. G. COCKBURN CURTIS, Lieut.-Colonel.

A PROTEST.

MADAM,—Some weeks ago a letter from Mrs. Fawcett appeared in THE COMMON CAUSE, repudiating the action of Mr. Morel in sending to Secretaries of N.U. Suffrage Societies a circular, about the propriety of which there might be some question, but whose dignified and frank admission of the non-responsibility of the National Union in the matter made it difficult to see what harm could accrue to the Union's reputation from it. Mrs. Fawcett, however, apparently thought it necessary to condemn the circular emphatically.

My point is this. Almost immediately afterwards a detestably conceived leaflet on the *Militarist* side was sent to the Secretaries of the same Societies, signed "Honorary Secretary of the National Union of W.S.S.," a leaflet which had appeared over the same signature also in more than one newspaper, one a London daily of wide circulation. As to the effect on the reputation of the National Union of these two communications, there could surely be two opinions: Mr. Morel's might be misunderstood only by careless readers, Mrs. Fursdon's came before the public dressed in the stolen colours of the National Union. For myself—and I think I speak for many others—I felt profoundly humiliated that the Society of which I am a member should be supposed to have anything whatever to do with Mrs. Fursdon's paper. Yet Mrs. Fawcett did not repudiate it as she had repudiated Mr. Morel's circular. I know also of letters of protest sent to THE COMMON CAUSE and not published; and so it is not surprising that Mrs. Fursdon has taken heart of grace and issued a second violent attack on Mr. Morel and what he stands for. Are our leaders so anxious, in this connection, for Peace at any Price, that they will allow this to go on? All I can say is that some of us, in that case, will for the first time as members of the National Union blush for the company we are keeping.

EMMA COMMON.

[*Our correspondent seems inclined to attach a good deal more weight and importance to the leaflet to which she refers than it would appear to deserve. Mrs. Fursdon, of course, had no right to express herself as she did, as a Secretary of any Suffrage Society, still less as the Hon. Sec. of the N.U.W.S.S. This second leaflet, to which Mrs. Common now gives prominence, is, we feel sure, equally unworthy of any further advertisement, but we understand that it does not pretend to be issued by or in connection with the Union. The case of Mr. Morel's circular was entirely different. It was not an explosive statement of personal opinion, but a request to officers of the Union to take a certain definite course of action within their Societies and called for an official pronouncement.—This correspondence had better now cease.*—ED., "C.C."]

A TRAINING SCHOOL FOR WOMEN POLICE.

Our readers will recollect the short account which we published last week of this valuable method of public service for women. The recent resolution passed by the National Council of Women Workers "urging the Government to take such steps as may be necessary, whether by legislation or by administrative action, to promote the appointment of women for such purposes," was supported by speakers, who bore abundant testimony to the need for women police, and the value of efficient training. This the Bristol School offers. Particulars as to fees and courses of lectures will be found in our advertising columns.

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The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 52,000 men and women who have banded themselves together, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time suspended their ordinary political activities, in order to put themselves and their Union at the service of those who are organising the relief of distress caused by the war.

The Foe Behind the Fighting Line.

"We are at a very critical moment in the history of the war," Mr. Asquith said last week in the House of Commons; and all our hearts throbbed painfully at the words, as we thought at once of our men in France and Flanders and Gallipoli, and their comrades of chivalrous Belgium, France, and Russia and the South, who will win the war by putting out all their strength of body and soul. Because our eyes are always turned to them, and our hearts are with them, such words as "critical time" and "time of peril" take our thoughts to the fighting line, and the appalling danger to Europe and freedom which drew our best and dearest out of our homes.

But what we are only beginning to realise is, that there is another Danger against which our men at the front are helpless, and from which *we* must protect our protectors, because it stalks up from behind the fighting line. A year ago this Danger seemed remote enough, but now it has come up close. Now begins a critical period which will last for many months, and lay a strain on the very heart of our resistance.

Since war broke out it has grown more and more apparent that the men of the Allies are more than the equals of their foes in courage, resource, and endurance. Gradually the armies which had to be improvised have grown until they more than equal in numbers also the huge forces of a nation-in-arms which has been drilled and trained for this war for a generation. The output of munitions is steadily increasing. But one need remains, financial strength. Great Britain is carrying a far heavier burden than the cost of her own Navy and Army, for we are finding the money for nearly all our Allies. We are paying away three and a-half millions every day towards the cost of the war, and before long we shall probably be paying five millions. With a great sum we are buying our freedom and that of our brothers! The Danger that threatens us is this enormous and increasing drain upon our national resources, which means for us after all, as a nation, very much what it means for an individual; we are getting into debt, and if we are not careful debt will cripple our powers during and after the war. Into the wider and more complex issues of international finance we need not attempt to go. It is still true of nations as of private persons, that they must make both ends meet upon their incomes or suffer for it, and we shall suffer terribly for our extravagance.

The danger-signal came with the great drop in the American exchange, which showed that we were getting more and more deeply into debt in the United States. The second, and still more significant sign of the times, was the loan which we raised out there last week in order to pay our American creditors. A great part of our debt out there is for necessaries, raw materials, and munitions, which we must buy for our trade and manufactures and for carrying on the war. These things must be paid for. But we are adding to the bill vast quantities of quite unnecessary things which we are getting over from the United States. To use a very homely illustration: if you are already heavily in debt to the village general shop for ironmongery, flour, and calico, it would be folly to go round and squander any ready money that you have on tinned apricots and silk blouses. But this is precisely what we are doing, and on an enormous scale. This is where we women of Great Britain must assert ourselves. We must see to it that we spend no money abroad on things we

can either do without or can make for ourselves at home. Every purchase of luxuries or comforts from a neutral State means money diverted from its proper channel; money is our vital resource, and if we pour it out without getting in return the things needful for our national strength, we are wasting the power of Great Britain.

Let us bear these things in mind when we are shopping. How to put them in practice? Well, in the first place, economists tell us we must buy English produce *only*, as far as we can. In the second, let us buy from our own people of the Dominions and from our Allies, and let them get the profits so that they may help to pay for the war. We must buy New Zealand butter and not Danish; South African and Italian oranges, not Seville or Valencia or other Spanish fruit; West Indian sugar and not Java; New Zealand or Canadian meat, and not Argentine or American; and no tinned fruit or fish at all, save from our own people. Always ask yourself as you buy, "Where is the profit going?" Look at the labels on the goods at the drapers, or on the grocer's tins and packets. The grocer and the draper, when they see what the demand is, will stock the goods produced by the Allied nations, and cease to exhibit cheese, canned peaches, hosiery, and silks (to mention only a few things) from neutral States.

We must produce everything we can in Great Britain. It is the day of home-made things and of home-grown food. Every garden should be dug over now before the frost, and got ready to plant with vegetables next spring. Even a tiny patch of ground, now covered with coarse grass and weeds, will yield a crop of potatoes next year which will astonish the grower if the patch is well "trenched," and the weeds and grass first burnt to ashes and then dug in as manure. The old rhyme will come true, and "every rood of ground maintain its man," if we set about it resolutely; and the great drain on our vital resources will be enormously reduced.

"Our women are going to win this war!" The confident words were spoken by a soldier who knew the Foe behind the Firing Line. And we shall win the war if we save the nation's resources, and put, as our men have put, "all our strength of body and soul" into the struggle for life. We are going to win the battle behind the fighting line!

First-Hand Experiences.

VII.—UNIVERSITY WOMEN AS FRUIT AND PEA PICKERS.

The great shortage of agricultural labourers, which has been caused by the fact that men from the rural districts have joined the Army in their thousands, has opened a new field of work for women of all classes. It would be more correct, perhaps, to say that it has reopened an old field of work, for after all agricultural work was originally the task for the women, and not the men of the household. The summer of 1915 offered prospects both good and bad to farmers and fruit-growers all over England. The crops were good, the trees were heavily laden, but there was a lamentable shortage of labour to remove the produce from the plants and trees, and pack it ready for the market. This difficulty has been met and overcome by the wives and daughters of the labourers in the various districts, assisted by women of the professional class.

The students of Birmingham University felt that the long vacation of 1915 should be put to some practical use. A register was therefore compiled by the Guild of Undergraduates of all those who were willing to devote part of the vacation to "war-work." Originally, the idea was that the students should be imported into the munition factories of Birmingham to help in the making of shells and other war material, but this for the most part was found to be impracticable, for the manufacturers could make use of the services only of skilled men, the engineers. The women, therefore, had to substitute the idea of agricultural work for that of munitions-making.

Our greatest difficulty at the beginning of the summer was the reluctance of farmers to employ women, and particularly women of the professional class. Not only the farmers, but the villagers in general, were firmly convinced that educated people had a strong objection to soiled hands and hard manual work, and therefore they were afraid to make the experiment. This difficulty, however, need never again be faced, at any rate in the districts where University women have been working this summer.

At the end for a little time the Guild was able to arrange two centres in Worcestershire to which the women students could be sent. One was at Tardebigge, on a large fruit farm belonging to Mr. Dixon, and the other at Elmley Castle, in the employ of Mr. Hiatt. Our next difficulty was the question of accommodation, and in this matter the organising committee was very largely assisted by several lady members of the Staff. The Elmley people were provided with a cottage belonging to Mr. Hiatt, who allowed them the use of it rent free for a period of some ten weeks. At Tardebigge there were no convenient cottages, but the Engineering Department of the University came to the rescue and lent their commodious tents which are used for the annual surveying camp. Moreover, the Professor of Engineering superintended the setting up of the camp, and ensured the efficiency of the sanitary arrangements. In the Tardebigge party there were about thirty women who worked in the fields during the month of July.

The general camp arrangements were undertaken by a committee elected from the women themselves, under the supervision of a lady, who kindly offered to go as housekeeper to the party, and the students in turn stayed in the camp to act as orderlies for the day. Most of the time the women were working on the strawberry plantation; they also picked a few currants and raspberries. In this class of work the rate of pay is, of course, very low. It was necessary to spend a long day in the fields, usually from about 4 a.m. (sometimes earlier) until sunset, and even then the wage was only about two or three shillings a day. The wages of individual people differed very considerably, as they were paid for piecework, and had no settled weekly amount. Unfortunately, the weather was very bad during the whole time, and work was often prevented by the fact that the field was almost under water. However, by dint of great economy the workers were able to live very cheaply. Food and running expenses for the camp cost only about seven shillings a head per week, so that most were able to cover their expenses for the month and have a few shillings over to go towards the purchase of a new wardrobe! One's clothing was, of course, entirely spoiled, for it was necessary to grovel in the mud to find the fruit. A mackintosh skirt was found to be a useful possession in wet weather, but it was unbearably hot in the short intervals of bright sunshine.

On the whole the people of Elmley Castle were perhaps more fortunate than those at Tardebigge. They went in relays of eight, who stayed for periods varying from a fortnight to seven weeks. The cottage, with its thatched roof and the outline of Bredon Hill in the background, looked very picturesque from the outside, and was comfortable enough inside, furnished only with absolute necessities which had been lent by friends in Elmley, Pershore, and Birmingham.

Mr. Hiatt had not sufficient work to keep eight people employed the whole time, therefore the time was spent partly on his land and partly on a farm belonging to Mr. Haines, of Wick, four miles away from Elmley, and there the students either walked or cycled when there was no work nearer home. This set of people picked peas, beans, and plums. Peas are by far the easiest and most profitable of the three. They can be picked quickly, because the plants are pulled up before they are stripped, and, moreover, they are much less tiring than beans, because there is not so much stooping required: 6d. and 8d. per pot (40 lbs.) was the price paid for peas. By working hard from about 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. we could pick five or six pots, the record wage earned by any one of our people in a day being 5s. 4d.

There were about twelve women who had been working regularly on the farm since Christmas, and these were very quick pickers. They could pick from seven to fifteen pots in a day, but they were renowned throughout the district for their speed. We found the beans much harder than peas because of the continual stooping, but on fairly good days we could earn about 2s. or 3s.

Although there were only a few of us we were able to live very cheaply, notwithstanding the enormous appetites developed by the fresh air and the manual work. This was only made possible by the fact that the farmers allowed us to take as many vegetables as we cared to have. Fuel cost very little, as Mr. Hiatt placed his wood-stack at our disposal. (Oh! the struggles we had with our stick fires when the wood was damp!) Food and running expenses were about 5s. 6d. a head per week; on an average we earned perhaps 2s. or 3s. a week beyond that sum.

When they were not on piecework the regular workers were paid 13s. 6d. per week. Everyone who has done this kind of work must admit that the wages are well earned, for the hours are long and the work is heavy and tedious. The soul-racking part of such work is that one must be for ever plodding and working; there is no possibility of doing a great deal of work with a rush, and then taking a long rest. Moreover, in order to keep up one's speed it is necessary to concentrate on the actual picking; it is fatal for one's earnings if the mind is allowed to wander away to abstruse questions of philosophy, or science, or what not.

Nevertheless, the life is extremely healthy, and can be made a source of great happiness if one is prepared to take all hardships and inconveniences in a cheerful spirit. The regular workers and village people were very kind and friendly once they had overcome their first prejudice, and had discovered that we were ready to take our share of the work without having any privileges given us. We were often able to help each other, especially in carrying the heavy pots down the long fields. They had, of course, much more physical and muscular strength, but constitutionally, perhaps, were not as strong as we were. In a shower of rain they usually left work and took shelter sooner than we did, and none of our people suffered in the least from chills. With regard to the housekeeping it was found most convenient for one person to do all the ordering and keep accounts, but we took turns for one person to stay at home each day in order to clean the cottage and cook the evening meal ready for the return of the workers. The midday meal, which was eaten in the fields, would consist only of bread, butter, cheese, jam, &c.

The farmers were extremely grateful for the assistance the women had given them, and they also felt that the spirit which had prompted the movement had been of infinite value in breaking down the misunderstanding which exists between town and country. The villagers with whom we came in contact no longer regard educated people as incompetent, impracticable individuals, while the students for their part were glad to have the experience which has given them a first-hand knowledge of the conditions under which the rural labourers are forced to work.

Florence M. Pither, M.A.
(President of the Guild of Undergraduates, University of Birmingham.)

Learning Russian.

The Russian alphabet, like the Russians themselves, is a friendly ally, which has been turned into a bogey by false representation. It contains ten more letters than our own; but four of these (most helpfully for the student) represent the soft, as distinguished from the hard, vowel sounds; two more mark the hard or soft pronunciation of final consonants, and the other four represent sounds which in most other European languages are expressed by a cumbersome combination of consonants.

The only real difficulty of the language lies in its elaborate declensions, and this should not prove an insuperable one. Russian is no more difficult a language than Greek, and every intelligent schoolboy or girl is supposed to be capable of learning Greek. Then, too, it has the further advantage of practical utility to those who are taking up a commercial career, for it is quite a popular fallacy to imagine that every Russian speaks French, or German, if not English. He does not, unless he is an educated man and lives in Petrograd or Moscow. Given a little patience, a little perseverance, a "live" teacher with a good method, and the English student will find that Russian is not nearly so difficult as it is represented.

It is sometimes asserted that there is no such thing as English grammar—which is untrue—but it is frequently true that the Englishman knows nothing about it. He has, of course, learnt certain rules and been taught to parse and analyse sentences; but as a schoolboy he generally looked upon them as a mysterious device, invented by the ingenuity of schoolmasters to confound him, and fails to see any practical utility in them at all. A study of Russian could not fail to teach the student the "inwardness" of grammar, for Russian demands a practical application of grammatical rules at every turn.

The effort to pronounce some of the more difficult sounds in the Russian language would be invaluable for training the ear, and teaching the magic art of *opening the mouth*, which is the secret of good pronunciation. Sad though it be, the Englishman, the inheritor of perhaps the finest and richest of modern languages is seldom able to speak his mother tongue in its fulness. I do not, of course, include the University trained man or woman, but the product of the Board School, and even of the High School, is seldom able to speak English. Lift him out of his rut of everyday talk, and he is often at a loss to place the tonic accent in such commonplace words as "mediæval," "vagary," "epitome," "sonorous," and many others, whilst he is hopelessly at sea as regards a hard or soft "g," except in the very commonest words. The pronunciation of the average city man, from the clerk upwards, is slipshod, incoherent, and incorrect.

I have hitherto only spoken of the practical side of studying Russian. But there is another which, if things were only rated at their true, instead of at their surface value, would be even more important; I mean the understanding of the soul of Russia, for a people with whom we can have no personal intercourse must ever remain more or less of a stranger.

Then, apart from the rich treasures of Russian literature, there is Siberia, so little known, so little understood; we hear it spoken of as a gloomy, ice-bound country of pitiless snowstorms and prison mines; but of its glorious, nightless spring, of its marvellous wild flowers, we hear nothing; nor of the golden fecundity of its summer, the sunshine of the snowfields, the wild enchantment of the aurora. Its vast lands, its growing cities, are crying aloud for the engineer, the scientific agriculturist, the geologist. Its inhabitants are clamouring for education, for enlightenment. I knew an English governess who did so well with lessons in Siberia during the summer that she was able to spend the winters in Paris. Siberia offers a vast field for the enterprise and energies of English men and women—Russia is stretching out her hands to England as never before, and she is able and eager to give us as much as we can give her, and more.

We have heard enough, and more than enough, of "pogroms," of anarchists, of political corruption. But we have not heard enough of the spirit which drives the noble, from the Tsar downwards, to shoulder the knapsack of the soldier and handle the shovel of the peasant, which inspires the mistress to demand pardon of her waiting maid and embrace her on the Easter morning.

A. de Spon.

Back-Yard Poultry-Keeping.

II.—Feeding.

It is the worst possible economy to stint hens' food. Some people have a great horror of over-feeding them, and they generally have a very poor result in eggs, which they try to improve by using spice or other stimulants, when a little more natural food would be so much better. If they must be given a stimulant, meat is the best; and sometimes, when pullets are backward in beginning to lay or hens have been off laying some time after moulting, it does bring them on, but should be used sparingly. Lights, or some cheap bits from the butcher, may be given for about a week, but the hens must be watched to see that their digestions are not upset.

In pre-war times, a hen was supposed to cost 1d. a week to keep, but in the last year all poultry-food has gone up enormously, though the back-yard poultry-keepers will not feel it as much in proportion as the poultry-farmers, because much of their feed should come from the house or garden waste.

Hens should be fed three times a day, and a good rule for the amount to give is just as much as they will eat hungrily directly it is given them; if any is left over they probably will not return to eat it, and food left about encourages rats. If birds are not eager for their food when it comes, do not give them so much. The first meal in the morning should be a mash. It is a good plan to keep an old saucepan in the kitchen into which can be scraped all the dishes and plates—everything is acceptable to fowls, except tea-leaves and coffee-grounds; broken bread, cake, or biscuit crumbs, bits of fat, gristle, bacon-rind, fish-skins, apple, potato and vegetable peelings,

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jam scum, and ends of everything. In the evening, the pot holding all this should be boiled up, as hens do not like raw vegetable peelings or hard crusts; when it is cooked, if it is not sufficient, or if there is not sufficient farinaceous stuff in it, coarse meal must be mixed in till it is about the consistency of stiff porridge; if this is warmed up in the morning, particularly in winter weather, it is better. The hens' last feed should be given about an hour before sunset, just before they go to roost, and should be of grain, as it takes longer to digest, and is more sustaining for the fourteen or sixteen hours before they are fed again. The mid-day feed may be of scraps or grain, not meal. About one handful of grain for each bird is a fair allowance at a time.

The best meal for chickens is middlings or seconds, costing now about 5s. a bushel; corn merchants are very fond of sending fine bran instead, which is most unnourishing. So-called poultry-corn is generally a mixture of very bad-quality grains, and it is better to buy either oats or maize by the gallon or sack; they are often a little cheaper by the sack. Maize is now 2s. a sack dearer than oats, but as a sack of maize weighs half as much again they are worth the difference. Maize, however, is rather fattening, so it is best to alternate them with oats; good oats are heavy, and the heavier the less shuck and the more kernel or food-stuff there is in proportion. It is well to understand clearly whether grain is being bought by weight or measure, as it is a common trade trick to sell it by measure, and to send short measure, and explain some was kept back because it was such good weight. White oats are better than dark. Chickens should always have water in their yard, also a saucer of grits. If they do not have water they eat their eggs, and if they do not have grits they lay eggs with soft shells. Grits are pounded fish-shells; they can be broken up at home, but are apt to splinter into the face, and can be bought quite cheaply.

All garden waste, windfall fruit, greens of every kind, even weeds, lawn mowings, and dead leaves should be given to fowls to pick over, but not left after they begin to decay.

The yard should be sprinkled with lime once a week and forked over, and a little lime put into the house keeps it sweet. Ashes should be put on the floor, as it keeps it dry and makes it easier to sweep out. All refuse from the poultry-yard is excellent for a garden.

All these instructions may give the impression that chickens take a good deal of time; really, it almost takes less time to throw a few handfuls of corn to birds than to explain how and when to do it; but they do need a certain amount of attention, and if that cannot be given *regularly* it is better not to keep them, as they will be neither a pleasure nor a profit.

Sylvia Clark.

THRIFT NOTES.—VI.

Fresh boiled silverside is economical, as if boiled with carrots, onions, and turnips, the water it is boiled in makes good clear soup. If the silverside is served hot, the vegetables may be cut up and used as a garnish.

Fresh brisket of beef treated in the same way also makes good clear soup, especially useful in households where young children or invalids have to be catered for. The flank end of the brisket should be asked for, as it has the least fat. When cooked the bones should be removed and the meat placed between two plates with a weight on the top to press it into a neat shape, a little of the stock being boiled down to make a glaze.

Good and economical soup may be made of the bone from a joint boiled with onions, carrots, and turnips, first cut up and fried a deep brown in fat. Sometimes this is good enough to serve as a gravy soup. It may be made more substantial by placing rounds of bread in the soup tureen before pouring the soup in. Grated cheese served with the soup makes it more nourishing, and provides variety. If the stock is not good enough to serve as gravy soup, it may be made into mock mulligatawny by frying 1½ tea-spoons of curry powder in a little fat, adding to the soup and serving with rice. Green pea-pods boiled with a small onion, salt and pepper, and sprig of thyme, and passed through a sieve, make quite a good soup added to bone stock.

Here is a recipe for turning the water, mutton, chicken, or rabbit has been boiled in, into soup:—

Rice Soup.—Boil 2 ozs. of rice in about 1½ pints of stock from boiled chicken, rabbit, or mutton. When the rice is well cooked pass through a hair sieve. Add salt to taste, and, if liked, the beaten yolk of an egg. The white of the egg may be well beaten up and mixed with stewed apples to make apple stew, or used for various puddings.

Mrs. Owen Powell.

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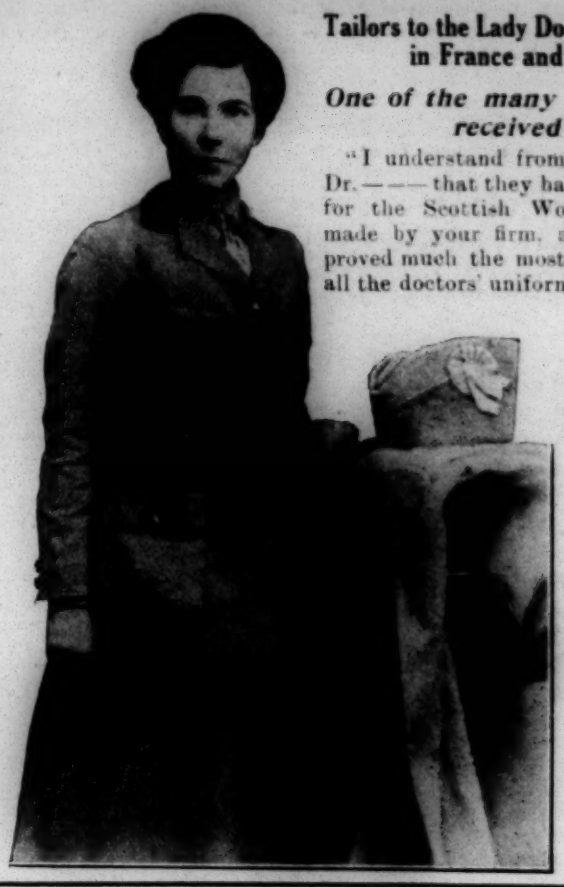

Tailors to the Lady Doctors on service in France and Serbia.

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"I understand from Dr.——— and Dr.——— that they had their uniforms for the Scottish Women's Hospital made by your firm, and these have proved much the most satisfactory of all the doctors' uniforms I have seen."

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Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
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Hon. Secretaries:
Miss Evelyn Atkinson.
Miss Edith Palliser (Literature).
Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Parliamentary).

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. Auerbach.
Secretary:
Miss Geraldine Cooke.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone—4673 Vic. & 4674 Vic.

Educational Courses on War: Need for Study Circles.

As it is hoped that many Societies will arrange Study Circles this winter in connection with the recently issued simplified syllabus on the Causes and Consequences of War, Headquarters have secured the services of Miss Janet Payne, an expert on Study Circle methods, who is prepared to get out a Study Circle outline and to start Societies in the way they should go. *If a Study Circle is a failure it is generally because it has had a "wrong start."* There *is* a distinct method of Study Circles, and a preliminary lecture, followed by a Demonstration Circle, led by the lecturer, is the best way of ensuring a successful session. Once rightly started, with keen members, the Circle ought to go by itself, without outside help. Miss Payne, during the last one and a-half years, has given most of her time to Study Circles, lecturing on them, holding Demonstration Circles, and visiting Circles already in existence. "I believe in the method," she writes, "as the one most likely of any I know to encourage clear and vigorous thinking and the acquirement of exact information." Application for terms, dates, &c., should be made to Miss Janet Payne, 5, Wentworth-road, Golder's Green, N.W.

National Economy.

Mrs. McKillop's address is Oakthorpe, Fog Lane, Didsbury, Manchester.

In connection with the patriotic housekeeping exhibitions and the economy campaigns which the Societies are urged to undertake this winter, the N.U. has been fortunate in securing the services of two experts :—

Miss A. Churton, Secretary of the Rural Housing and Sanitation Association, will lecture on such subjects as "War Economies" and "Public Health." It is thought that these lectures will be of special value to those Societies which are particularly interested in the question of Rural Housing. On this subject, of course, Miss Churton speaks with authority.

Mrs. Caborne is a lecturer and demonstrator of great experience both in England and in the Colonies on the subject of simple economical and palatable cookery, a subject which will recommend itself to every sensible woman.

Application for both these lectures should be made to N.U. Headquarters.

L.C.C. Panel Lecturers.

The L.C.C. has prepared a list of lecturers on "Saving and the New War Loan," and Societies in or near London who are requiring lecturers on this subject would do well to write to Sir Robt. Blair, L.C.C. Education Offices, Victoria Embankment, W.C., for these lists.

Gifts of Clothes from New Zealand.

In response to the appeal sent out last autumn, signed by Mrs. Fawcett, Lady French, and Lady Frances Balfour, a number of cases of clothes have been sent from the Royal New Zealand Society for the Health of Women and Children. These have consisted largely of clothes for babies up to one year old, including complete bundles, containing the necessary garments for one baby for a year. There have also been two or three cases of clothes for older children and for grown-up people. The babies' garments have been of wool, and beautifully made.

Our thanks are due to Miss E. M. Aldis, who has given a great deal of time to unpacking and repacking the clothes.

Since I took over the work in February we have received eighteen cases from the following places :—

Napier 3.
Christchurch 1.
Wanganui 3.
Auckland 3.
Nelson 1.
Motueka 1.
Timaru 3.
Westport 1.

We have two cases in not yet unpacked, and the promise of several others to follow.

The clothes have been distributed to the following organisations :

Invalid Children's Aid Association.
Babies' Centre, Reading (per Miss M. Jones).
Maternity Centre, Bradford (per Miss Hilston, E.F.F. Organiser).
Women's Labour League Baby's Clinic.
Shoreditch Borough Council Maternity Centres.
Maternity Centre, Swindon.
Mothers' Welcome, N. Kensington.
E. Finsbury Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre.
St. Pancras Maternity Centre.
Maternity Centre, Wandsworth.
Mothers' Guild, Salford, Manchester.
St. Augustine's and Hotwell's School for Mothers, Bristol.
Maternity Centre, Bedminster.
Babies' Welcome, Etruria, Stoke-on-Trent.
Somers Town Nursery School.
Westminster Health Society.
Vittoria-place School, Islington.
Hammersmith School for Mothers.
Worcester City and County Nursing Association.
Maternity Centre, Batley, Yorks.
Mothers' and Babies' Welcome, Wimbledon.
Kentish Town Dining-room for Mothers.
School for Mothers, Stockport.
Chiswick Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.
Brixton Nursing Association.
Mothers' and Babies' Welcome, Mansfield, Notts.
Maternity Work, Reigate District (per Mrs. Auerbach).
Mothers' and Babies' Welcome, Accrington (per Mrs. Cooper).
Central Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association (Chelsea).
Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association (Camden Town).
Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association (Holborn Branch, by request of Lady French).
Belgian Depôt, 22, Warwick-square (Clothes earmarked for Belgians).
Church Army (Second-hand clothes not very desirable).
Limehouse C.C. School.

Grateful letters of thanks have been sent from these places. The empty packing-cases have been sent for the use of the Packing Department of the Scottish Hospitals at the London Society Offices; other smaller ones have been used to send away the clothes in.

From the Napier branch of the Society has come a gift of £33 16s., which was acknowledged in our issue of September 24th. The letter which contained the gift explained that the case which was on its way would be the last of the season, because the women of Napier must begin to sew again for their own children, but as they would have no more time to work for the little ones in England they were sending a sum of money to Mrs. Fawcett, to be expended for the babies of those who have fallen in the war, wherever the need seemed greatest. To The Common Cause, the organ of the N.U.W.S.S., falls the honour of recording so sweet and gracious a gift.

G. W. Evans.

N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

Serbia.

Dr. Inglis has written home a very encouraging report of our work in Serbia. The Lazarovatz Hospital, which has been taken over from the military authorities, promises to be a very interesting piece of work. Dr. Holloway, who is in charge, has under her care four buildings—one for enteric, one for medical cases, a block for surgery, and a convalescent home. Lazarovatz itself is a small town at the junction of the line from Obernovatz and Valjevo. It is a point of interest that all the hospitals are most favourably situated at railway junctions, and will all make excellent dressing stations.

The Serbs have certainly appreciated our work, for they have erected a drinking fountain at Mladanovatz in honour of the S.W.H. There is a spring of drinking water just outside the village, and they have built an arch over it. On one side the drinking water pours out, and on the other side is a screw, to which a tube for filling water carts can be fixed—further along is a trough for horses to drink out of. Round about this fountain the Serbs are making a little park. The following inscription has been put up both in English and Serbian :—

In Memory
Of the Scottish Women's Hospitals
In Serbia,
And their Founder, Dr. Elsie Inglis.

The fountain was given by the Second Reserve Hospital, to which our hospital is attached.

We are now responsible for 725 beds in Serbia; Kragujevatz, 125; Mladanovatz, 200 (can be extended to 400); Valjevo, 200; Lazarovatz, 200. The units are all well and preparing for the winter work.

France.

Owing to the advance of the Allies in France, our hospitals have been very busy. At Troyes, after being told to evacuate as quickly as possible after a short period of quietness, they were suddenly called upon to receive 174 patients at once, tired weary men from the trenches, who arrived in a long procession of motor ambulances and horse ambulances. It was a great test of our organisation, and Mrs. Harley, our Administrator, reports that the staff did splendidly. In no time, she says, the men were made comfortable, and each man was provided with a cup of

"café au lait," and in due course their supper followed at the usual time The vêtements department hurriedly got to work cleaning and repairing the clothing of those poor men—and in this connection may I make a request for buttons, cloth, boot laces, mending wool, &c., for those engaged in this work at Troyes. It is a great drain upon their resources when they have large numbers of uniforms to repair at once. If some of our kind friends would be so good as to supply these articles, it would be a great help. Royaumont has likewise been very busy. Dr. Ivens reports that they were honoured by a visit from Dr. Bosseres, who spoke in the highest terms of our organisation.

Donations to N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital.

	£	s.	d.
Forward, as per list of September 23rd	61,050	0	10½
Further donations received to September 30th :—			
G. B. Gourlay, Esq., per W. F. Gourlay, Esq.	1	0	0
*Collected by Miss Williamson for upkeep of "September" Bed, 2nd six months (Troyes)	25	0	0
Rev. D. R. Kyd	1	0	0
Teachers Tower Bank School, Portobello, per Robt. T. Collet, Esq. (Serbia)	0	14	6
Lieut.-Col. Hollist (Serbia) ...	12	0	0
Thornlie Bank School Staff, per R. Hutton, Esq. (Serbia)	3	2	6
N. Mecklem, Esq., K.C.	5	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Maclay (Serbia)	10	0	0
*Mrs. McCallum	0	10	0
Misses Urie (Serbia)	0	5	0
Misses Macluckie	2	0	0
"Australian Officer" (Serbia)	2	0	0
Miss A. M. Barclay...	0	10	0
*Miss K. M. Loudon of Edinburgh, at Abbaye de Royaumont, "Charles Loudon" Bed, 2nd six months (Royaumont)	25	0	0
*Misses Gray, Abbaye de Royaumont, travelling expenses returned as donation to Hospital	6	16	0
Mrs. J. K. Hunter...	1	0	0
*Bingley W.S.S., per Miss Mary Morton, to complete "Bingley" Bed (Serbia) (Total £50)	6	0	0
Miss Alison Wardie, to name "Fraisgil" Bed (Royaumont)	25	0	0
*Miss C. E. Hossack	2	0	0
Mrs. Murray	1	1	0
Collected by Miss Lucy H. Soutar and Miss Jean Frances Simpson, to name "January Birthday Bairns" Bed (Royaumont)	25	0	0
*John Thomson, Esq.	5	5	0
Dollar W.S.S., per Miss M. C. Millen	2	10	0
Miss I. O. Ainslie	1	0	0
*Proceeds of Garden Parties at Beechwood, Innerleithen, and Nether Caberstone, Walkerburn, per Miss Robertson. Further £25 to complete "Innerleithen and Walkerburn" Bed for one year. £50 for second Bed ...	75	0	0
*Mrs. Campbell (Serbia) ...	20	0	0
W. McLeish, Esq....	0	5	0
Mrs. Gregory (France)	5	0	0
"West Kilbride" (Serbia) ...	1	0	0
George Lauder, Esq., per Miss Margaret Lauder (Serbia)	50	0	0
Anon.	0	2	6
*Miss Alice Wyld	3	0	0
William White, Esq.	1	0	0
Mrs. Hay	1	0	0
Thomas Wilson, Esq. (Serbia)	1	10	0
*Castle Douglas W.S.S., per Mrs. Campbell, collected by Miss Montgomery, towards "Castle Douglas" Bed (Royaumont)	20	10	0
Mrs. Bobbett	0	10	0
Total	61,392	12	4½

* Denotes additional donation.

Mrs. Laurie, the Hon. Treasurer, begs to acknowledge, with most grateful thanks, a further cheque for £900, which, with £100 already received, gives a total donation from the Sheffield Serbian Flag Day Committee for the Scottish Women's Hospitals of £1,000—per Miss Jarvis and Mrs. Helliwell. The lists have come too late for publication this week, but will be inserted in next week's issue of Common Cause.

The Hon. Treasurer begs once more to thank all those who have helped and are helping, and will gratefully receive further contributions to carry on the work. Cheques should be sent either to the Hon. Sec., Dr. Elsie Inglis, 2, St. Andrew-square, Edinburgh, or the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock, and crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland."

Further List of Beds Named.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"Kia-ora" (Good luck) (In "Marguerite à Ecosse" Ward, Royaumont)	Anon. (in appreciation of a Royaumont Orderly's services), per Miss K. M. Yeaman, 90, Craiglea Drive, Edinburgh.
"September" (Troyes) 2nd six months	Collected by Miss Williamson, Lygon-road, Edinburgh.
"Charles Loudon" (Royaumont) 2nd six months	Miss K. M. Loudon, of Edinburgh, at Royaumont.
"Fraisgil" (Royaumont)	Miss Alison Wardie, 52, Montgomerie Drive, Glasgow.
"January Bairns Birthday" (Royaumont)	Collected by Miss Lucy Soutar, Golspie Tower, Greenbank-crescent, Edinburgh, and Miss Frances J. Simpson, The Hollies, Golspie.
"Innerleithen and Walkerburn" (2nd six months)	Proceeds of Garden Parties at Beechwood, Innerleithen, and Nether Caberstone, Walkerburn, per Miss Robertson, Redroofs, Innerleithen.
"Innerleithen and Walkerburn" (one year)	

What Some of Our Societies are Doing.

Sunderland Society.

The first of a series of monthly meetings was held on Thursday, September 30th. Mrs. Eyres, who was in the chair, briefly summarised the year's work of this Society under two main heads—viz., the Mothers' and Babies' Club, inaugurated more than a year ago and very successfully maintained; and the two distinct efforts made on behalf of the Scottish Women's Hospital. The Society sent up £55 in April last, and named a bed in Serbia for one year; and at this meeting it was announced that a sum of £102 is now ready to send up to Headquarters. Though not mentioned by the Chairman, it may be noted here, as part of the regular work of the Society, that the local paper, *The Sunderland Echo*, prints every week, under the heading of "Women and the War," matter which is sent to the Editor by the Society's Press Secretary, and occupies from half to three-quarters of a column.

The main feature of the evening was a paper by Mr. Fred F. Perris, of Middlesbrough, on International Problems. The speaker's main contention was that we cannot hope for Peaceful International Relations until we learn to organise and scheme and spend ourselves in the cause of Peace as Germany organised and schemed and spent herself in the cause of War. He pressed the Society to begin now, without detriment to its "war work" of all kinds now going on, to study the question of how wars are made, and tackle the problem of how they are to be avoided. It was arranged that Miss Young, Dr. Dora Bunting, and Miss Margaret Weddell—all members of the Society—should give papers in October, November, and December respectively: Miss Young on Instincts of Children in their Relation to War, Dr. Bunting on International Law; Miss Weddell's paper to be announced later.

Owing to pressure on our space we are obliged to hold over an interesting report from Manchester.

Forthcoming Meetings.

Working Parties.

Blackheath Sewing Party for Scottish Women's Hospital—Tuesday, 2 to 6, at 8, Shooter's Hill Road—Hostess, Mrs. Monk.

Bolton—Suffrage Shop, Bradshamgate—Working Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Monday, 2.30

Bristol—40, Park Street—Working Party—Every Wednesday 3.0

Highgate—Working Party for L.S.W.S. Sale of Work—Hostess, Mrs. Garnett, 26, West Hill, Highgate Every Wednesday, 3.0—5.0

Huddersfield—Sewing Meetings will be held at the Office, 41, Spring Street—Every Tuesday afternoon 2.30 p.m.

Paddington—8, Hatherley Grove, Westbourne Grove (by kind permission of Messrs. William Owen, Ltd.)—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every day, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Solihull—Working Party for the Friends of Women's Suffrage, to make "comforts" for the Italian soldiers—Hostess, Mrs. Allport, One Oak, Solihull—Every Monday—Speaker on October 11th, Mrs. Ring 3.0

South Kensington—Belgian Hostel, 1, Argyll Road—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals—Every Tuesday and Friday 3 to 6.30 p.m.

OCTOBER 8.

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"—Miss Alice Low on "War Work and Women" 4.30

Manchester—16, Deansgate—Executive Committee "At Home" to members of Branch Committees to arrange the winter work 3.0

OCTOBER 9.

Stevenage—Small Hall—Rummage Sale for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals 2.30

OCTOBER 11.

Bristol — Opening of Bedminster Mothers' School by the Lord Mayor 3.30

OCTOBER 12.

Bolton—Lower Spinners' Hall—Lantern Lecture—Miss V. Thurston on "Red Cross Work in Belgium and Russia"—Admission free, reserved seats 1s. 7.30

OCTOBER 13.

Bristol—40, Park Street—Study Circle—Leader, Miss B. M. Baker 5.30

Darlington—Temperance Institute—Dr. Ethel Williams on "War and Eugenics" 7.30

Fulham—20, Talgarth Road, W. Kensington—Annual and General Meeting—Speaker, Mrs. Oliver Strachey 7.0

OCTOBER 14.

Bradford—Opening of Weekly Study Circle—Speaker, Miss Pattinson 3.30

Chelsea—Meeting at the Polytechnic—Speaker, Miss Lowndes

Manchester—Association Hall, Y.M.C.A.—Public Meeting—Lantern Lecture by Miss V. Thurstan on "Red Cross Work in Belgium and Russia"—Chair, the Lord Mayor—Collection for Red Cross 3.0

Wallasey and Wirral—Liscard Concert Hall (Room 5)—Annual Meeting—Miss Macadam on "Patriotic Housekeeping Exhibitions and War-time Economy"—Chair, Miss Mahler 8.0

OCTOBER 16.

Richmond—16, Denbigh Gardens (by kind permission of Mrs. Gates)—Mr. Charles Roden Buxton on "Nationality and the Settlement"—Admission free, by ticket only, to be obtained beforehand from Miss Henderson, "Belsize," Queen's Road, Richmond 8.30

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Ten words, 9d per insertion; every additional ten words, 6d. per insertion. All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 14, Great Smith-st., Westminster, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE PROBLEMS OF THE WAR.

A SERIES of LECTURES at the KENSINGTON TOWN HALL, on TUESDAY AFTERNOONS and EVENINGS, has been arranged by the S. Kensington Branch of the London Society for Women's Suffrage.

Oct. 19th, 8.30 p.m.—M. Miyatovitch (former Minister for Serbia at the Court of St. James) on "The War and the Balkans." Chairman, The Lady Denman. Collection for the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

Nov. 2nd, 8.30 p.m.—Mr. Lowes Dickinson, M.A., on "Nationality as a Cause of War." Chairman, Her Grace the Duchess of Marlborough. Collection for the London School of Medicine for Women.

Nov. 9th, 3 p.m.—Professor E. J. Urwick, M.A., on "War and Economy."

Nov. 16th, 8.30 p.m.—M. Alexis Aladin (ex-Member of the Duma, representing the Central Committee of National Patriotic Associations) on "Anglo-Russian Relations."

Nov. 23rd, 3 p.m.—Dr. Ludwik Ehrlich (University of Lvów, Poland) on "Modern Poland."

Nov. 30th, 8.30 p.m.—Sir Edwin Pears, LL.B., on "Constantinople Past and Present."

Further information and Tickets 2s. and 1s. each, or 10s. 6d. for series, at the Door, or from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Fyffe, 79, Victoria-road, Kensington.

(Continued on page 332).

(*Continued from page* 331).

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton-st., Piccadilly.—Meeting, Wed., Oct. 13th, 8 p.m., Mr. J. T. Grein, on "Reform our Theatre."

POSITIONS VACANT.

MANCHESTER BABIES' HOSPITAL.—Immediate vacancies for probationers; thorough training given in care of infants; premium required.—Apply, Secretary, 77, Clarendon-rd., Con. M. Manchester.

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Apply to Mrs. Gent, The Principal, 5, Belgrave Road, Tyndall's Park, Bristol.

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